

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:RAFEAREY:IJG

APPROVED BY S/CCT - ROBERT A. FEAREY

AF/E - MR. COOTE (DRAFT)

D/HA - MR. CARLIN (SUBS)

M - MR. EGAN (DRAFT)

S/S :REWOODS

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O 130211Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA ROUTINE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007741

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW III - FOOD AND MEDICINES PROPOSAL

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 82; (B) KHARTOUM 98; (C) ADDIS 336;  
(D) STATE 6754

1. CONCUR AMBASSADOR BREWER'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSES TO  
BAGHIR AND AHMED ON ELF APPEAL FOR FOOD AND MEDICINES. ALSO  
CONCUR ADDIS ANALYSIS REF C.

2. FYI: RE PARA 2 REF C, CONCERNED DEPARTMENT OFFICES  
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HAVE BEEN EXAMINING FEASIBILITY AND UTILITY FOR KAGNEW CAP-

TIVES' RELEASE OF A SPECIAL USG CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR RELIEF PROGRAM FOR ERITREAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN. THIS IDEA IS STILL AT WORKING LEVEL IN DEPARTMENT AND IS STRICTLY FYI AT THIS POINT.

3. KHARTOUM SHOULD INFORM GOS THAT DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED AMBASSADOR'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT BAGHIR ON ELF FOOD AND MEDICINES APPEAL (PARA 4 REF A). IT WOULD BE TOTALLY CONTRARY TO US POLICY, A POLICY WHICH THE USG CONSIDERS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS, TO BARGAIN WITH FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR THE RELEASE OF AN INNOCENT AMERICAN SEIZED BY THE ELF FROM HIS

HOME IN ASMARA NEARLY A MONTH AGO. NOR WILL THE USG ENCOURAGE PRIVATE AMERICAN ENTITIES TO PROVIDE SUCH FOOD AND MEDICINES. THE DEPARTMENT IS, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC STATEMENT PROMISED LAST OCTOBER UPON THE SAFE RELEASE OF MICHALKE (PARA 5 REF D), INCLUDING FACT THAT USG DEPLORES CONTINUATION OF THE FIGHTING IN ERITREA AND THE SUFFERING IT HAS BROUGHT AND THAT IT CONTINUES TO HOPE FOR AN EARLY, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE ERITREAN PROBLEM.

4. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT ABOVE POSITION WILL PROBABLY BE REGARDED BY GOS AS HARSH AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PROMPT RELEASE OF MICHALKE. EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE EXERT EVERY PRACTICABLE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE GOS UNDERSTANDING, AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, OBJECTIVE SUPPORT OF THIS POSITION, SO THAT OUR TURNDOWN OF THE FOOD AND MEDICINES APPEAL WILL BE PASSED TO ELF IN TERMS LEAST LIKELY TO IMPAIR PROSPECTS OF MICHALKE'S RELEASE AND SO THAT GOS EFFORTS TO THAT END WILL BE MAINTAINED. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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